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Testimony in support of aggressive renewable energy policies, in particular, solar power for **"SB 1 An Act Concerning Connecticut's Energy Future"**.

Dear Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, Honorable Members of the Energy and Technology Committee, Thank You for the opportunity to speak today.

On behalf of my Task Force and the Portland Board of Selectman **I like** the proposal to create the Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection. Streamlining the myriad state bodies into one executive department will help more consistent policies emerge.

In my opinion, Section 1 (a) (3) "increasing the state's use of clean energy", should be number 1. I say this on the logic that if you ramp up renewable energy, you boost jobs and local economies called for in (4) and stabilize and lower costs as called for in (1). Also, I would like to see this Dept. take the lead in promoting energy efficiency.

That Mr. Daniel Esty has been nominated to lead this proposed agency is a very positive sign.

It's bad policy (Sec 8-26) to allow large established hydroelectric facilities to meet the RPS. We need to use the funds we have to create new in-state sources of energy, not simply add to the profit margin for existing generators out of country.

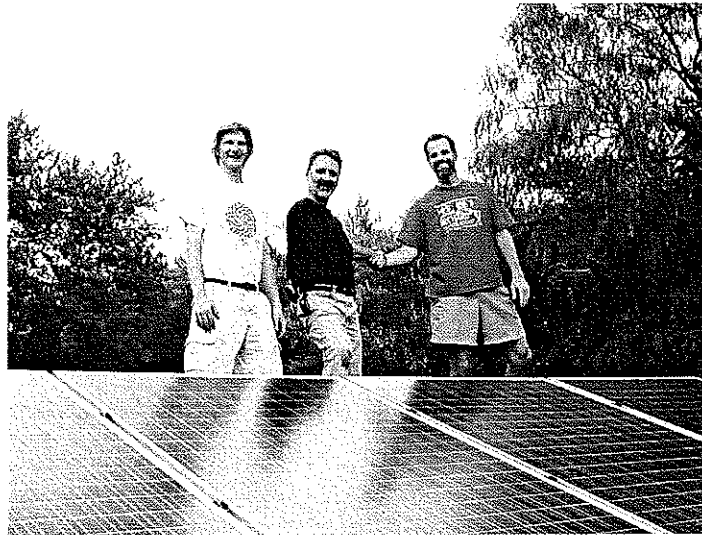
I don't like Sec. 33 that calls to eliminate the CEQ Executive Director position, as I believe 3rd party reasonable oversight is a good thing.

I like Sec. 49 (2) which seeks to lower energy costs and look at locally installed renewable energy vs. the costs and other downsides to transmission lines.

I applaud Sec. 50 that provides for a plan to look at and possibly implement a low-income electric rate. This population is hardest hit by high energy costs and its incumbent upon us to recognize this and address it.

I whole heartedly support Sec. 51 for a proposal that I have come to know as Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) loan program.

As you can see from the picture below, I currently enjoy the benefits of solar power (reduced electric bills, fewer emissions, protection against price spikes, etc.). The array on my house provides clean reliable power to the grid during those hot summer days when it is most needed.



The panels came from a company in Massachusetts, the inverter from Bend, Oregon, and local workers did the installation.

It's important to note that the panels, installed in 2006 are Schott 300's. Weeks after they were installed, the company came out with Schott 315's. A 5% improvement in output at the same cost.

If we do not aggressively support solar and other renewables we will continue to lose ground to China, Japan, Germany and others in technologies we once dominated.

I would like to see other residences, small and large businesses, schools and other municipal buildings, our environment, our economy and our national energy security get the benefits from solar power the way my family has. We can do this with an aggressive renewable energy strategy.